

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Urban Forestry Board has become aware that the City of Austin recently purchased a parcel of land adjacent to a property that includes the largest known Live Oak tree within the greater Austin area. The tree's current trunk diameter at breast height is almost seven feet, and a Daily Texan article from January 15, 1980 listed its estimated age at roughly 500 years old. This magnificent Live Oak resides in east Austin adjacent to the northbound 183 access road and just south of Bolm Road. If available funding exists and the current property owner is amenable, we strongly encourage the City to acquire sufficient acreage surrounding the tree to cover its primary root zone.

The Travis County Central Appraisal District identification number is 187760 for the property where the tree resides, and the owner of the 71.35 acre lot is listed as APAC Texas (<http://apac-texas.com/>) with a mailing address in Lexington, Kentucky. The parent company of APAC Texas is Oldcastle Materials out of Atlanta, Georgia. More information about Oldcastle's environmental stewardship, community involvement, and commitment to social responsibility can be found on their website at <http://oldcastlematerials.com/environment.htm>. Attached are pictures of the tree, along with a copy of the Daily Texan article referenced above.

Similar to the current Treaty Oak Park on Baylor Street, we envision a small area for this tree that all Austin residents could enjoy in the years to come. The amount of land purchased would likely include an abandoned structure adjacent to the tree, so existing electrical and water utility infrastructure may already exist. A large pile of waste asphalt has been stored next to the tree and this would ideally be removed along with other construction debris in the vicinity. Since this tree has already survived for over five centuries, we hope that it will receive the proper care to live several more. 2012 marks the 75th anniversary of the Treaty Oak property purchase by the City of Austin in 1937 for \$1,000. We can think of no better way for the City to continue this legacy than to secure a tree of similar majesty for future Austinites to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Urban Forestry Board

Cc: Sara Hensley

Enclosure